

# Methow Valley Irrigation District

PO Box 860

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September 20, 2022

To: MVID members

## **EQUALIZATION MEETING**

*Equalization is a process by which MVID members who have not had adequate water during the season can request a reduction in their assessment for the following year. Now that MVID's new, piped system is in place, equalization is rarely relevant, but it's still required by law.*

MVID's Board of Directors, acting as a board of equalization, will conduct the annual equalization meeting on **Monday, October 10<sup>th</sup>, 2022 at 6:30 p.m.** The meeting will be held in the basement of the Methow Valley Community Center in Twisp, Washington unless COVID-related orders prohibit in-person meetings. The purpose of the meeting is to equalize assessments for the 2023 irrigation season. In the event that the Board concludes the business that comes before it prior to 7:00 p.m., MVID's regular meeting will immediately follow the equalization meeting.

The current draft of the proposed assessment roll is on file in the district office for the inspection of all persons interested. As specified in RCW 87.03.255, the board of equalization will continue to meet "...from day to day as long as may be necessary, not to exceed ten days, exclusive of Sundays, to hear and determine such objections to the said assessment roll as may come before them; and the board may change the same as may be just."

Any member who cannot attend the equalization meeting is encouraged to submit a letter stating his or her comments to or request of the Board on or before October 3, 2022. Letters may be sent to the district office, PO Box 860, Twisp, WA 98856. Please include your name, address, phone number, and parcel number(s).

All lands will be fully assessed unless the parcel owner petitions the Board to hear and determine whether a reduced assessment is warranted. No lands will be equalized after the date of the annual equalization meeting. Questions may be directed to the district office at (509) 997-2576.

## **WATER RIGHTS**

As many of you know, MVID has been working for several years to:

- Install a water delivery system that will provide water to all members of the district, and
- Right-size the district so that assessed acreage matches the amount of water the district is permitted to use

MVID's 2017 permits allow district members to use 3,932.7 acre-feet of water per year. Currently, the district has an obligation to prove up on those permits following the 2023 irrigation season, although it's possible that deadline will be extended. Proving up entails:

- Documenting the amount of water being used, and
- Demonstrating to the Department of Ecology that the water is being put to beneficial use in accordance with state law

In order to retain the right to use the district's full permitted quantity of water, MVID asks that members irrigate as much of the assessed land in the district as possible during the season prior to proving up. Any water that is not being used when the district proves up will be transferred to the district's water bank. Retrieving water from the bank may be expensive.

You can help the district avoid unnecessary expense by fully irrigating your assessed acreage. The district wants to be sure you understand the process now so that you have time to develop an irrigation system, if necessary. If you are not irrigating during the year in which MVID proves up, the district may require you to pay the cost of transferring sufficient water from the water bank to irrigate your land.

You will be responsible for paying your assessments whether or not you are irrigating. MVID and the State of Washington have made a large investment in the district's water delivery system, and the payments of all members are needed to operate and maintain the system and provide for future replacements and repairs.

### **SYSTEM MANAGEMENT**

Please remember:

- When you do irrigate, please be a good steward of MVID's water right and do not use more than the amount of water allocated for your parcel(s). If water use exceeds MVID's permitted quantities, the district may need to monitor individual use. If you have any questions about your allowed quantity of water or rate of application, please contact me
- Drain your system at the end of the season to prevent freeze damage
- Be sure that your personal valve is closed no later than April 15, 2023. Closing your valve prior to start-up will ensure that the system can be charged without flooding your land. Do not turn your system on in the spring until MVID has given the go-ahead. Only MVID staff may open and close MVID valves
- MVID's rules are posted on the district's web site on the "Documents & Maps" page. Please be familiar with them. In particular, be sure you know your responsibilities before you divide your land or undertake a boundary line adjustment
- Most of MVID's communication with members is by email. **Please make sure we have your current email address. MVID plans to stop sending paper equalization and start-up notices next year**
- MVID's regular board meetings start at 6:00 p.m. from November through March. In April through October, board meetings start at 7:00 p.m.
- MVID may offer extra water to members whose assessed acreage is less than their irrigable acreage in 2023. Please contact me if you are interested. An extra water user agreement will be required

Sincerely,



Sandra Strieby  
Secretary